Citizenship to people living in Sikkim

2796. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided to grant citizenship to about 54000 left-over persons who have been living in Sikkim for generations; and

(b) if so, what modalities are likely to be adopted for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) The Government have decided that genuine cases of omissions in respect of those who were otherwise eligible for registration in the Sikkim Subjects Registers in terms of provisions of the Sikkim Subjects Regulation, 1961 would be looked into for rectification by a Committee comprising representatives of the Central Government and the State Government of Sikkim.

Smuggling of synthetic textiles into India

2797. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of synthetic textiles into the country has increased to a great extent;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Synthetic textiles continue to be sentitive to smuggling into the country. Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the extent of smuggling of synthetic texiles. Smuggling of synthetic fabrics into the country is largely dependent on fluectuating profit margin between international and odmestic prices.

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery particularly at the vulnerable areas of the land borders and the coastline and at international airports and seaports has been geared up. Close co-ordination is maintained with all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling.

The Government has also now permitted setting up of new factories and the expansion of existing capacities for the manufacture of polyester fibre and polyester yarn, to enable the manufacturers to achieve economies of scale. This would reduce the cost of the indigenous synthetic textiles and thereby reduce the incentive to their smuggling. As a further measure in the same direction, the fiscal levies on man-made fibres and yarn have been reduced with effect from 1st March, 1988.

Soil from martyrs' memorial from Kerala brought to Delhi

2798. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that soil from the martyrs' memorial from Punnapra-Vayalar in Kerala has been brought to Delhi along with the soil from all the important places where the heroic freedom struggle took place and was mixed at Rajghat for planting saplings on the 40th Anniversary for India's Independence;

(b) whether Government are aware that the participants in that struggle are still denied pension as freedom fighters; and